



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the
Interior

Chiricahua National Monument
Fort Bowie National Historic Site

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CHIRICAHUA NATIONAL MONUMENT – NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

July 25, 2012

Contact: Chiricahua NM Visitor Center, 520-824-3560 x0

Bonita Canyon Campground Closed Due to Flooding

The Bonita Canyon Campground in Chiricahua National Monument is closed until further notice. Nearly an inch of rain fell during the evening hours of Monday, July 23, resulting in flooding of the area, and forcing the closure of the campground and Bonita Canyon Drive, the only roadway in the monument. Bonita Canyon Drive was cleared of debris and reopened on Tuesday, July 24. However, due to saturated soils, and predictions for additional monsoonal rainfall, the campground will remain closed until further notice. The visitor center and all trails remain open.

Local residents and visitors are reminded that conditions can change rapidly during the monsoon season. Areas that have experienced large fires, such as the Horseshoe II fire that burned over 200,000 acres in and around Chiricahua in 2011, have an increased risk of flash flooding. Floods are significantly larger following fires and floodwater can carry debris that could be hazardous to campers and their property.

Hikers are encouraged to check weather forecasts before heading out and pay attention to their surroundings. Soils in a burned landscape can create slippery conditions, and mud and rockslides can be triggered by the heavy rainfall events that are typical during monsoon season. Contact the Chiricahua National Monument visitor center at 520-824-3560 x0 for more information regarding hiking and camping in the monument and surrounding areas.

Chiricahua National Monument is located four miles east of the junction of Arizona Highways 186 and 181.

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